

NEWS RELEASE

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Nearly 2,000 Take Advantage of Career Planning Access in Libraries

More than 1,800 people have already taken advantage of local library access to the Idaho Department of Labor's Career Information System career planning program.

Since Sept. 1, 74 public libraries have been offering the program free of charge in collaboration with the department in an effort to reach more of the tens of thousands of workers who have lost their jobs during the recession and are searching for new careers.

"Over 1,800 people have logged on to Idaho Career Information System in just the last six and a half months," System Administrator Christie Stoll said. "They have been able to take advantage of this comprehensive computerized program to explore career opportunities and identify schools or sources of education and training for specific jobs. The goal is to provide them with the information they need to make successful decisions about future careers or education."

The Idaho Career information System is the only source of Idaho-specific information on jobs and training. It is widely used in all 25 Idaho Department of Labor local offices and in nearly all school districts in Idaho.

The department has been able to provide the service without charge because of resources received through the federal economic stimulus package. The Career Information System can be used in conjunction with IdahoWorks, the department's online service that is available free from any computer to all employers and workers.

On IdahoWorks, job seekers can create and update résumés and profiles, find jobs, check eligibility for unemployment benefits, file benefit claims and review benefit payments. Employers can list jobs, manage those listings, review candidates and screen applicant résumés.

"Access to this information has been extremely valuable, especially in smaller towns where libraries are a focal point of the community," State Librarian Ann Joslin said. "This electronic service can be particularly useful to job seekers in rural parts of Idaho."

More information on the Career Information System is available from Christie Stoll at cstoll@cis.idaho.gov or (208) 334-3705. IdahoWorks is available at <http://labor.idaho.gov/iw>

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